

M I D D L E E A S T A N D S O U T H A S I A R E V I E W

23 SEPTEMBER 1981

Israel

Jerusalem radio reported that Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will submit to the Cabinet a proposal for a separation of powers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. According to the scheme, which has the backing of the Prime Minister Menahem Begin, security-related activity and infrastructure will be the responsibility of the regional military commanders while a civilian administration answerable to the defense minister will run the civil affairs of the Arab residents, who will be encouraged to participate in the administration. The radio noted that two West Bank Arab mayors have already expressed opposition to Sharon's proposals. In a related report on the resumption of the autonomy talks in Cairo, the radio said the announcement of prospective changes in the administration of the occupied territories constitutes proof of Israel's serious intentions to establish self-rule for their inhabitants.

Egypt

As-Sadat on Arrests, Afghan Rebel Aid--Cairo radio reported that President Anwar as-Sadat remarked in an NBC interview that he sees no need for further arrests in his campaign to eliminate sectarian strife. Reporting on the same interview, MENA said As-Sadat admitted that Egypt is continuing to deliver Soviet-made arms to the Muslim rebels in Afghanistan.

Coptic Synod Supports Government--Cairo radio reported that a Coptic Church Synod meeting has issued resolutions asserting that since Christianity calls upon believers to obey their nations' rulers, anyone guilty of resistance is resisting God, that the synod fathers appreciate the circumstances that prompted President as-Sadat to take steps to preserve national unity and end sectarian sedition; that there is no harassment of the priesthood.

Jordan

Amman radio reported that in remarks made at a press conference during his visit to Jordan, British Secretary of State for Defense John Nott said Britain believes that any solution to the Middle East problem should include PLO participation, inasmuch as Palestinians are at the center of the problem and as any solution should provide for establishment of a Palestinian state. According to the radio, Nott viewed the U.S.-Israel strategic agreement as dangerous to the region if it included military aspects, because this would increase the presence of superpowers in the area.

Lebanon

MENA reported that the Lebanese authorities have formed a 500-strong special security force to protect embassies and members of the diplomatic corps.

Syria

SANA reported from Moscow that visiting Syrian Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talas met once again with Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov before departing the USSR for home.

Iran

Security Situation--Tehran radio reported the execution of 23 Mojahedin-e Khalq and Peykar members in the capital and another 17 Mojahedin in Mashhad and three other cities. The radio also noted that former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr's information officer was tried and executed for intelligence activities against the Islamic Republic. Other radio reports said revolution guards captured 13 Mojahedin in Esfahan and arrested another 4 dissidents in Bandar-e Anzali. In a statement broadcast by the radio, the Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office warned that "counterrevolutionary and deviant minigroups" have attempted to carry out their subversive activities under the cover of names and trademarks of commercial companies. The statement informed companies formed after 23 September 1979 that they should submit details of their business registration to the authorities or otherwise face prosecution.

Military Parade, Courts--AFP reported that the army would hold a military parade through central Tehran on 23 September. It said the army has never been so honored since the overthrow of the shah. However, AFP also noted that the Majlis approved a bill separating the judicial organization of the army from army headquarters and placing it under the Justice Ministry's control.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation--An Iraqi Armed Forces communique carried by INA claimed that Iraqi forces attacked Iranian positions in the Susangerd region, forcing the Iranians to retreat and abandon 11 tanks. However, Tehran radio said the Iranians defeated the enemy attempt to regain territories west of Susangerd, asserting that the Iraqis lost 6 tanks, sustained 150 casualties and were forced to withdraw.

Afghanistan

AFP, citing Western diplomatic sources, said that people who have viewed the Soviet Embassy since the reported rebel attacks against it on 15 September have found no signs of damage. However, the sources also said Afghan Government claims of having dislodged Muslim rebels from the Panjsher Valley are false and that Afghan troops aided by Soviet air power only managed to move beyond the town of Golbahar, at the mouth of the valley. AFP also reported that insurgent attacks against government installations and the Soviet residential complex in Kabul have increased lately.

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MUSLIM INSURGENTS STEP UP OPERATIONS IN KABUL

BK221053 Hong Kong AFP in English 0933 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] New Delhi, 22 Sep (AFP)--Moslem insurgents fighting the Soviet-backed Babrak Karmal government in Afghanistan have stepped up their operations in Kabul with numerous attacks on government installations and the Soviet residential complex there. Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The sources who have been closely monitoring developments in Afghanistan since the Soviets marched in their troops in December 1979, said that the war between the rebels and the Soviet-aided Afghan Government troops was getting closer to Kabul.

The trouble-torn city was witnessing heavier than usual post-curfew firings, increased patrolling by tanks and armoured personnel carriers and a significant stepping up of air transport activities.

Air traffic from the Kabul International Airport which is being used by the Soviets as the base for their MiG fighter bomber and the dreaded helicopter gunships, was much heavier than usual.

Several planes from unknown destinations were landing, in the night without lights, the sources said.

During the past week, Afghan insurgents launched attacks on Kabul airport, police posts in the city, government troops and three state-run industrial units, the sources said.

On Thursday last, the insurgents mounted an attack on the Soviet residential complex near the airport. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by the radical "Sama" (Afghan national liberation organization) group.

The diplomats said that there were also reports of a rocket attack on the airport on the same day which resulted in damage to at least two aircraft.

The rebels attacked a police post in the Dasht-e-Barchi section of the city killing an unspecified number of policemen. On Thursday the insurgents rocketted a second police post in the (Chelsitun) area and blew up the wall. They picked up at least 16 weapons.

On [word indistinct] four Soviet soldiers who had apparently gone for a swim in the Qarghgh Lake, on the outskirts of the city, were killed in a rebel rocket attack, the sources said.

There was, however, no independent confirmation of the incidents.

The sources in effect denied reports that the Soviet Embassy in Kabul was partially damaged by rebel rocket fire last week. Afghan dissident sources here had reported on Sunday the rebel attack on the Soviet Embassy.

The diplomats said that people who toured around the embassy after hearing the reports on foreign radio found no sign of damage. (The state-owned Kabul radio also denied the report last night.)

The focus of the war in the provinces remained the strategic Panjsher Valley, about 100 kms (60 miles) north-east of the Afghan capital. The sources discounted government claims broadcast over Kabul radio yesterday that Afghan Government troops had dislodged the insurgents from the valley.

Afghan Government troops aided by Soviet air strength only succeeded in moving beyond Golbahar, a small town at the mouth of the valley, they said.

Government forces had re-captured Rokheh and Bazarak town, but were forced to retreat following determined rebel attacks. A contingent of Hazara tribesmen led by Syed Taglak had reached the valley from Ghazni to aid the rebels, the sources said.

The sources here reported severe fighting in Qandahar, Balkh and Sheberghan Provinces. The insurgents mounted an attack on the Soviet border town of Qarqin, an important rug trading centre. Details were not available.

SLOW RESPONSE TO PEACE OVERTURE DEMANDS CALLUP

LD220626 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] Kabul, 21 Sep (BAKHTAR)--The latest decision taken by the DRA Council of Ministers on the partial military recall has evoked an undoubtedly massive response.

At this critical juncture of our resistance to U.S. imperialism and its lackeys, our neighbours are slow in responding to the peace overtures advanced by our humanitarian and popular leadership.

The imperialist leaders and their allies continue relentless efforts to prevent a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. They want to keep alive a diplomatic, economic, military, psychological warfare against the government and the people of Afghanistan. They take the side of the counterrevolution and invent subterfuges in a bid to stall a settlement for peace.

This dictates the need for well-equipped and powerful armed forces, capable of dealing with any contingency in case the offensive is escalated against our revolution.

It is also impossible to imagine that the freedom-loving Afghan people will ever let themselves be overwhelmed by the threats of the enemies and intimidated by bullying.

Today it is common knowledge that the policy of the Soviet Union calls for open espousal of the national liberation movements in many parts of the world in support of national independence, peace, disarmament, detente and relaxation of international tension. The nature of the Western monopolies led by the U.S. is different.

They are always seeking to increase tension, colonialization and exploitation of oppressed peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America. They are solely concerned with ensuring their own interests. And, they talk of an alleged Soviet interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Thus the attitude adopted by Pentagon is virtually designed to subvert and thwart the latest peace proposals advanced by the DRA in order to achieve political settlement of the situation created around Afghanistan and normalise relations with neighbours. The U.S. Administration is trying to ascribe to the Soviet Union and Afghanistan the actions committed by itself and its allies.

Production and deployment of the neutron bomb is but a single example of the U.S. activities and initiatives. In the face of such bellicose measure adopted by the Reagan administration, all progressive nations of the world, which have chosen a new way of life and are embarking on the construction of new society, must strengthen their defensive forces. (From Kabul NEW TIMES September 20, abridged.)

BRIEFS

NEW MAGAZINE--Kabul, 22 Sep (BAKHTAR)--A new bimonthly illustrated magazine INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS carrying the theoretical political and informative articles and commentaries made its debut on the Afghan press scene yesterday. The articles in the first issue range from a discussion of the problems of energy in the capitalist world to the politics of different countries. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 23 Sep 81 LD]

ARMY OFFICERS EXECUTED FOR MUTINY, ASSASSINATION

BK230314 Hong Kong AFP in English 0306 GMT 23 Sep 81

[Text] Dacca, 23 Sep (AFP)--The 12 army officers condemned to death two months earlier for mutiny and assassination of the president were executed in the small hours of today, official sources confirmed.

The execution of the 12 condemned officers living in five different jails of the country came within 18 hours of the dismissal by the Supreme Court of the appeals made on their behalf against the death sentence by a general court martial.

Critic Arrested

BK230715 Hong Kong AFP in English 0803 GMT 23 Sep 81

[Text] Dacca, 23 Sep (AFP)--Retired Colonel Nuruzzaman, the chairman of one of three freedom fighters associations, was arrested today at his residence in Dacca, family sources said.

The arrest coincided with the execution of 12 condemned army officers early this morning.

Official sources confirmed the arrest but gave no reason. Colonel Nuruzzaman became a vocal critic of the government of Acting President Justice Abdus Sattar shortly after the assassination of Ziaur Rahman in the May 30 mutiny in Chittagong. He made public statements accusing the government of acting against the interests of the forces who actively participated in the country's war of liberation in 1981.

The government, however, denied the allegations, describing them as motivated and false.

At a public rally in Dacca recently, Colonel Nuruzzaman had claimed that the 12 condemned army officers were freedom fighters and demanded the stopping of their executions. He warned that if the government went ahead with their execution, there would be another coup in the country in which the lives of repatriate army officers from Pakistan and non-freedom fighters would not be spared.

MRS GANDHI LEAVES ON 17-DAY FIVE-NATION TOUR

BK230320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 CMT 23 Sep 81

[Text] A warm sendoff was given to Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi when she left New Delhi a short while ago on her 17-day five-nation tour of Indonesia, Fiji, Tonga, Australia and the Philippines. Amongst those who saw her off at Delhi Airport were central ministers, party leaders and workers and a large number of others.

The prime minister will have talks with the leaders of the five countries on various world issues and development as well as bilateral relations. Mrs Gandhi is going to Australia to take part in the Commonwealth summit beginning in Melbourne on the 30th of this month. At Jakarta, the prime minister will call on President Suharto and the two leaders will have talks. In Fiji, Mrs Gandhi will exchange views with Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara. From Fiji, she will go to Tonga and from there to Melbourne to attend the Commonwealth summit.

The prime minister will return to New Delhi on the 9th of next month after a 2-day visit to the Philippines.

AIR FORCE PHASES OUT SOVIET BUILT MI-4 HELICOPTERS

BK230231 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 14 Sep 81 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, 13 Sep (UNI)--The MI-4 helicopters which were very effectively used in the last three wars since 1962 have been phased out by the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Several squadrons of the Soviet built MI-4 helicopters in all forward IAF bases were withdrawn from service on August 31, 1981.

The first batch of 10 MI-4 helicopters was acquired from the Soviet Union in 1960.

Official sources said the MI-4 helicopters which had served the IAF for well over two decades had to be phased out because of their becoming obsolescent. But this has created a gap which has to be filled by acquiring new helicopters.

The MI-8 and other helicopters with the IAF have an advantage because they use the aviation turbine fuel (ATF) which is kerosene and is quite cheap, besides being freely available.

Sources said it was because of these constraints that the MI-4 had to be phased out of service although many pilots still "love to fly it."

CURFEW RELAXED AS BARODA FUNCTIONING 'NORMALLY'

BK221521 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] In Baroda, all offices, banks, schools, university faculties, factories and post offices started functioning normally today. This followed relaxation of curfew hours from 0600 to 1800. PTI said no untoward incidents were reported from the affected areas.

BRIEFS

OPIUM FROM PAKISTAN--New Delhi, 18 Sep (AFP)--An Indian Border Security Force (BSF) patrol seized 460 kg (1,012 pounds) of opium last night being smuggled in from Pakistan through the international border along the Indian Punjab state. The B.S.F. headquarters here today said the patrol party ran into the smugglers but the latter escaped under cover of darkness. The contraband was estimated to be worth 500,000 rupees or over U.S. \$55,000. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1105 GMT 18 Sep 81 BK]

HAQ ON TALKS WITH AFGHANISTAN RULING PARTY

BK221000 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reiterated that Pakistan wants a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue and is ready to have either direct or indirect dialogue with the ruling party of Afghanistan under UN auspices. He was addressing councillors, prominent people and local representatives of Loralai this morning. He made it clear that Pakistan does not recognize the present government in Afghanistan as it is not a government representative of the people and does not enjoy the confidence of the people; this government has been established by a foreign power.

The president said that Pakistan, in relation to the efforts for a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue, will not compromise its four principles. He reiterated that Soviet troops should be withdrawn from Afghanistan and conditions conducive to return of the 2.4 million Afghan refugees to their homes with honor and dignity be created. The Islamic and nonaligned status of Afghanistan should be restored and the Afghan people should be granted the right to establish a government of their own choice. The president said that Pakistan is ready to hold talks on the basis of its four principles. He said that Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi, who is presently in New York, had met with UN Secretary General Dr Waldheim and Babrak Karmal's envoy will also meet with the UN secretary general.

The president lauded the spirit of the Pakistan people and their patriotism for caring for the Afghan refugees. He said that the UN high commissioner for refugees is visiting Pakistan to ascertain the needs of the refugees so that the burden on the Pakistan Government can be reduced. The president said that so far as Pakistan's own security is concerned the entire nation is imbued with the spirit of Islam and is fully capable of protecting its own independence and territorial security.

Referring to the local bodies system, the president said that with this the foundation of the administrative structure of the country has been laid. He said that the government is actively considering the system of government in the country. He said that we have determined that it should be fully in conformity with Islamic principles. He said we want advisory councils at the local, provincial and federal levels which will serve as a link in consultations between [word indistinct], government and the people according to Islamic needs.

AGHA SHAHI LEAVES FOR UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

BK171055 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Agha Shahi left Islamabad today for Karachi on way to New York to lead the Pakistan delegation at the UN General Assembly session. Other members of the delegation will include Federal Minister for Local Government and Rural Department Fakr Imam; Secretary General for Foreign Affairs S. Shahnawaz; Prof Muniruddin Chughtai; Muzaffar Hussain Shah; Ibnul Hassan; and M.A. Zubairi.

SRI LANKA ARMY COMMANDER BEGINS 6-DAY VISIT

BK201526 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Sep 81

[Text] Lt Gen Joseph Dennis Perera, commander of the Sri Lanka Army, arrived in Rawalpindi this morning on a 6-day visit to Pakistan. Vice Chief of Army Staff Gen Sawar Khan and other senior officers of the army welcomed him at the Islamabad airport.

He met with the vice chief of army staff at general headquarters and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and exchanged gifts. The Sri Lanka Army commander also visited the naval headquarters and met with Pakistan Naval Chief Adm Keramat Rahman Niazi. They exchanged gifts. Mrs Perera met with Begum Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi.

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE ON WAR'S ANNIVERSARY

LD221346 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Unit, the following message was issued by the prime minister on the occasion of the imposed war week and the anniversary of the savage attack and the all-round aggression by the mercenary regime of Iraq:

After suffering a disgraceful defeat inside the country, America decided to push the revolution toward defeat, or at least compromise, by way of a military aggression. In order to attain this criminal goal, America could not find a better mercenary than Saddam, and with the help of this antipeople and blood-sucking regime, it attacked our Islamic homeland. Making baseless claims and serving the conspiratorial plots of his masters, the criminal Saddam subjected our Islamic homeland to military aggression and thus declared war on Islam and the Islamic revolution.

Based on incorrect calculations and vain thoughts, imperialism thought that the consequences of the war has weakened our people and combatants. With this in mind, imperialism intended to steer the revolution toward compromise, and ultimately legitimize the rule of Baghdad. Little did it know that during the revolution and afterwards our nation recognized its enemies and experienced their tricks and knows them.

However, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is inspired by the advanced precepts of Islam, that symbol of peace, justice and prosperity, has always wished for peace and fraternity among the Muslims and the world nations. At the same time, it will meet any aggression decisively and will defend the honor of Islam and Muslims with all its might, up to the last man and the last breath. Our reply to those who advocate peace through compromise is this Koranic verse: And if two tribes of the faithful take up arms against one another, you the faithful should bring peace to them. And if one tribe were to oppress and aggress against another, you should take up arms against the oppressing tribe.

BANI-SADR SAYS KHOMEYNI 'MANIPULATED' BY U.S.

AU171303 [Editorial Report] Vienna Domestic Television Service in German at 1905 GMT on 6 September carries a 50-minute report on a Renate Possarnig interview with former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, recorded in French with superimposed German translation. According to the announcer's introduction, the interview was recorded "a few days ago" in Paris in separate parts "in various secret places" to "avoid any security risks" for the former Iranian president. The report also contains several clips from past and more recent developments in or related to Iran, including shots of Shah Reza Pahlavi, Khomeyni in exile, Khomeyni returning to Iran, and anti-shah and anti-American street demonstrations.

Bani-Sadr initially denied recent Austrian press reports that "some of his friends" had attempted to buy arms in Vienna for the struggle against the mullahs' regime, stating: "Those were certainly no friends of mine. We do not need any Austrian arms--we have enough arms in Iran."

Asked how he intends to struggle against Khomeyni and his regime from Paris, Bani-Sadr said: "We are not fighting against Khomeyni but against the ideology he stands for. We are not interested in replacing one leader with another. We want to alter life in Iran. We have been successful in that respect once before. We struggled against the shah for 2 and 1/2 years and ultimately won victory. The struggle we are waging now is directed against another dictatorship--that of Khomeyni."

Bani-Sadr elaborated on his personal role in the revolution, depicting himself as its "intellectual head," and on his role in the war against Iraq. He described in detail his losing battle with the ayatollahs, stressing that he was all alone in his "antiauthoritarian ideas," and attributing his deposition to this opposition of "religious totalitarianism."

He claimed that Iranian authorities are employing torture: "My office has documentary evidence on 400 cases where torture was applied, as well as film and photographs on such tortures." Following a long passage on the role of women in Iran--in which his wife, too, answered some questions--Bani-Sadr commented on the hostage affair:

"A few days after the hostages were taken, I became foreign minister to solve the crisis. I worked out a plan to this end. But there were constantly new obstacles, obstacles created by Khomeyni. The Americans knew exactly how Khomeyni would react to all their maneuvers. They calculated Khomeyni's exact measures in advance."

Asked whether he meant that the Americans manipulated Khomeyni, Bani-Sadr replied: "Yes, they did manipulate him. I believe that the Americans organized this operation [aktion] because the hostage affair ultimately led to Reagan's becoming president. At the same time, they discredited the revolution in Iran and helped set up a new dictatorship.... I will tell you how the Americans proceeded: After the Watergate affair, 4,000 CIA agents returned to the United States from abroad, where they set up a separate parallel service to support Reagan. They were the same people who were very active in the development of the hostage affair and in the U.S. diplomatic notes. What I am telling you now I have never said before because I wanted to save it for my memoirs: There is a cassette of Ayatollah Beheshti, in which he tells his followers that the hostages could be used as a trump card against me. You see, Khomeyni has a mystical aspect--he believed that all our enemies would disappear. To him, Carter's electoral defeat was historical proof of this belief. That is why Khomeyni was easily manipulated. I learned too late that an emissary of Khomeyni met the then-U.S. secretary of state in Germany to discuss the hostage problem with him."

Asked whether he saw any connection between the release of the hostages and the change in the U.S. Administration, Bani-Sadr replied: "Yes. The hostages were no longer needed after Beheshti's victory in the parliamentary elections and Reagan's election as U.S. President. Their release was then effected in a way that was humiliating for our revolution and for Khomeyni. We were the losers, the Americans the winners. It was Kissinger and Rockefeller who brought the shah to the United States and thus set a trap for Carter. It was the same two men who provoked Khomeyni in his irrational reactions and made a solution of the hostage affair impossible."

Asked about his strategy to bring about a change in his country, Bani-Sadr said: "It would be a great victory if we succeed in inducing Khomeyni to alter his authoritarian attitude. Thereby freedom would be restored and above all a civil war would be avoided." He continued: "I am pursuing this strategy because, despite everything, one cannot say that Khomeyni is absolutely bad and evil. Even the shah told the people: 'I hear your voice.' But then it was already too late. I hope that this time it will not be too late for Khomeyni." He added, however, that the "overwhelming majority of Iranians" now hate Khomeyni. "He could have done in Tehran what Jesus did in Jerusalem and Mohammad in Mecca.... But he missed this chance."

Regarding his alliance with the Marxist-oriented Mojahedin and the chances for a Marxist people's party in Iran, he said: "I see no sense in Marxism. What is it based on? Power and force." Asked again how he intends to struggle against the mullahs' regime from Paris, Bani-Sadr said: "To struggle is, to me, to explain--I will give interviews. I will tell the truth about Iran. The mass media will help me."

BANI-SADR QUESTIONED ON REPORT OF CIA PLOTS

GF221933 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 22 Sep 81 p 11

[Exclusive AL-WATAN interview from (Siba) press with former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in Paris--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What do you think of the Washington POST reports that the CIA is trying to plot against Khomeyni with the help of some Middle Eastern countries such as Turkey--whose government denied this--bearing in mind that this paper had announced the U.S. provocations to which Libya was subjected?

[Answer] Turkey could be not involved in such an attempt. Generally speaking, I have no information about any role for Turkey; however, there are in Turkey, as in all parts of the world, including Iran, pro-American elements. We know those who deal with the United States and even in which hotels they live. When I was president I received very clear information about this issue. Security is a serious problem in Iran. Unfortunately, Khomeyni does not understand this or he does not want to weaken his regime, although he has placed the security of his country on the brink of disaster.

[Question] How long, in your estimation, will it be before the clerical government in Iran collapses?

[Answer] The clerical government is actually over. In Iran there is currently not a government. There is only oppression, and oppression is not a government. There is oppression, for instance in Turkey, but there is order and a new economy.

Since the fall of the shah, Iranian economic losses have reached about \$3 billion. Moreover, we do not have any economic, political, social or cultural organizations or any means of expression. What is left for us is oppression. Our position is very difficult.

At present, we have no other recourse but freedom. If the CIA arranges a coup in cooperation with the military or with armed groups, then its conceptions are not right, since all the people are armed. In the absence of freedom and in the absence of the participation of all in achieving this freedom, we will not be capable of solving the issues.

[Question] What do you think of the new prime minister, Mahdavi-Kani, who had supported you. Will he be stronger or weaker than Raja'i and Bahonar?

[Answer] He does not support me and he never did. He was the head of the revolution committees which were behind most of the assassinations and the tough treatment journalists were subjected to. He is one of those who creates oppression. He is not a strong man, but he is certainly more inclined toward compromise solutions. He is no different from the others.

[Question] If Khomeyni dies tomorrow, what will be the role of Tudeh Party?

[Answer] It will have no role. It is nothing, unless the Soviets invade Iran. The Tudeh Party does not have a base or a popular position. It plays the role of the propaganda organ and the spy in addition to attaining some positions and winning the favor of some parties.

[Question] Khrushchev said: "There is no need for interference in Iran. All we have to do is to wait until the apple is ripe and falls by itself." Do you think this is a likely possibility today?

[Answer] Khrushchev fell and his dream did not come true. At that time there was no Afghanistan, no Czechoslovakia, no Poland. Moreover, there was no crisis in the Soviet Union. Today there is, and when controlled countries have crises they uncover the crisis of the dominating country. When the shah had a crisis, this was due to the presence of a crisis in the West. The repercussions of the U.S. crisis were stronger in Iran, thus the shah fell.

FORMER TUDEH LEADER CALLS FOR UNITY IN OPPOSITION

NC221757 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] The following are parts of a message by Dr Fereidoun Keshavarz, one of the former leaders of the Tudeh Party:

Iran is burning in the fire of a civil war and each day many Iranian boys and girls are executed by firing squad or are killed on the streets, and with their blood they make the flame of the struggle against the despotic and corrupt regime of the Islamic Republic brighter.

The war (?in the west of the country), and the (?incapability and destructiveness of the regime) have today rendered millions of Iranians [words indistinct] homeless and mourning [words indistinct]. [passage indistinct] The Islamic Republic of Iran is neither Iranian or Islamic. (!It is the fomentor of chaos and instability and if it has not yet fallen) it is only because the opponents of this rule are quarreling instead of uniting.

I am addressing the Iranian patriots, both civilian and military. Those who have not committed crimes in the former regime or in Khomeyni's regime, have not stolen and have not plundered the national wealth, regardless of their political beliefs, should now set aside (?their differences) and unite to save Iran. Each day hundreds of Iranian youths welcome death for the sake of Iran. Hear the cries of the oppressed people of Iran and do your duty. Come and set aside selfishness for the sake of Iran and of the Iranians and even for your own sake, (?join ranks and go to the assistance of the Iranian people).

These are the words uttered by a man who, because of his opposition to the past regime and to the present regime, has been away from his homeland for decades and (?whose only aspiration) is for Iran's salvation from this sad situation and from the danger of partition. Let us come and hear the Iranian nation's cries and (?act according to our moral) and social duty toward the nation and its people, unite as soon as possible and [word indistinct]. Otherwise, we will have committed an unforgivable sin against the Iranian people and future generations.

BANI-SADR AIDE, 23 OTHERS EXECUTED IN TEHRAN

LD22152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] The Tehran Islamic Revolution Court sentenced 23 members and cadres of the hypocrites and Peykar organizations to death for participation in the plot to bomb the headquarters of the Islamic Republican Party, participation in hiding Bani-Sadr and enabling him to flee, armed urban demonstrations, armed attacks against defenseless people, providing material means for the organization and membership in the supply and propaganda wings of the organization. The verdicts of the court were carried out.

Also, Radhid Sadr al-Hafazi, the information officer in Bani-Sadr's bureau, was sentenced to death for intelligence activities against the Islamic Republic, including contacts with all the counterrevolutionary leaders abroad and the Qasemlu group inside the country, and intelligence and supply cooperation with the hypocrites. The court's verdict was carried out.

17 'HYPOCRITES' SENTENCED TO DEATH, EXECUTED

LD221149 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Courts of Mashhad, Sari, Hamedan and (?Hashtbar-e Tavareh) sentenced 17 members of the hypocrites organization to death on charges of participation military operations, armed urban demonstrations and armed attacks on defenseless people; in membership in the hypocrites organization; setting fire to and destroying public places and public transportation; and similar offenses.

The sentences were carried out.

GUARDS ARREST 4 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES'

LD221200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Bandar-e Anzali announced that, thanks to the cooperation of the heroic people of that city and the efforts of the brother guards, four counterrevolutionaries were arrested at 1011 yesterday.

At 0600 on the same day, the hypocrites hide-out was discovered and two G-3 rifles with nine full magazines, 400 rounds of bullets and grenades were discovered.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 645 ON 21 SEP BATTLES

LD221842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Communique 645 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During air and land operations by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the past 24 hours, some effective blows were delivered at the forces of Saddam. In the region west of Dezful, our fighters brought the enemy positions in the Tappeh-Cheshmeh region under artillery and mortar fire; more than 100 aggressive enemy forces were killed. The defenders of the Islamic revolution also opened fire on enemy tank and artillery positions in Dasht-e Abbas; one 82-mm mortar and two ammunition depots were destroyed and a number of the forces of Saddam were killed.

On the Ahvaz fronts, sporadic exchange of fire continued. While defending their positions, our forces opened fire on the enemy positions. In these operations, two enemy ammunition depots were set on fire and a number of Iraqi forces were killed or wounded. Yesterday morning, our fighters twice repulsed enemy offensives against our positions in the Susangerd area, inflicting some loss and damage on the enemy forces.

Cunfire by the personnel of the navy against the enemy positions in the occupied part of Khuninshahr resulted in one ammunition truck and two antiaircraft battery positions being destroyed and some of the forces of Saddam being killed or wounded. Cunfire by the units of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran on enemy positions in Abadan and Khuninshahr destroyed 1 observation tower, 3 bunkers, 1 ammunition depots and 2 mortars and killed 25 of the enemy forces. In the same region, the personnel of the fighting unit of the police force destroyed one bunker, one heavy machinegun positions and two observation posts. The personnel of the ground forces ambushed and killed nine of the forces of Saddam and captured one officer and one soldier.

At 1230 yesterday two Iraqi MiG's appeared over Abadan, one of which was downed by anti-aircraft fire. The other fled. At 1835 on 21 September the fighters of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran attacked Al-Bakr jetty but the exact amount of damage and casualties caused by these operations is not known. Enemy positions in the Hoveyzeh region again came under our fighters' fire.

On the battlefronts in the west of the country, exchange of fire continued between our forces and the enemy forces. In Gilan-e Gharb, Tang-e Hajian, Dar Ballut, Bazi-Deraz and (Sonboleh), sporadic fighting continued; intensive fighting continued in Marivan.

Mortar fire by our forces on the Tawilah region, in Iraqi territory, set an enemy motor pool on fire, destroyed a number of enemy trenches and killed or wounded 10 of the forces of Saddam.

In the battles of 20 September, 27 [as heard] faithful friends of the revolution sacrificed their souls for Islam and the sacred Islamic homeland. Of these, 21 martyrs were from the ground forces and 7 from the martyr Chamran unit. May God's blessings be on their souls.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

130 IRAQI POW'S TRANSFERRED TO TEHRAN 22 SEP

GF221536 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] Another group of Iraqi soldiers captured by the Islamic forces on the southern fronts were transferred to Tehran today.

Upon arrival in Tehran, the Iraqi prisoners, numbering 130, were sent by train to prisoner-of-war camps.

LIBERATION FRONT DELEGATES VISIT AHVAZ 17 SEP

CF171601 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Text] The liberation fronts delegation visited residential sectors in Shush this morning before arriving in Ahvaz. After visiting Shahidabad, they toured areas that have been destroyed by Saddam's missiles. At the end of their visit to Khuzestan, the members of the delegation attended a short television interview and announced the results of their visit.

In the interview, the representative from the Moro Liberation Front in the Philippines said: We believe that Iraq is the aggressor and that it is the (?duty) of the Iranian nation--both men and women--to rise, defend their rights and fight the aggressor.

The representative of the Omani Liberation Front said: Iraq forced this shameful war upon Islamic Iran. He said: Since Iran is an Islamic country and a refuge for Muslims, Saddam intended to destroy Islam. We condemn not only Saddam but also all leaders and kings who are U.S. puppets.

The representative of the (Fattani) united front said: In our opinion, Iraq is the aggressor. Iran is the injured party and is innocent. He said he hopes that Iran will be victorious.

NVOI DECRIES AS-SADAT CLAIM OF SOVIET THREAT

TA221753 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Egypt Is on the Threshold of a Large-Scale Antidespotic and Anti-Imperialist Struggle"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: In the view of all political commentators and observers, the traitor As-Sadat is pursuing the same course in crushing the anticolonialist and anti-despotic movement of the Egyptian nation that his sincere friend, the annihilated Mohammad Reza, had at one time pursued against our heroic nation. There is not the slightest difference between the policy that As-Sadat is currently implementing in making Egypt dependent on world-devouring America from the military, economic and cultural viewpoint and the policy of the treacherous Mohammad Reza.

As-Sadat has led the entire Egyptian economy toward a dependency that will cause enslavement and subsequently bankruptcy by supporting the dependent capitalists and major Egyptian importers and by giving numerous concessions to Western, especially to American, companies and monopolies. As-Sadat has canceled all the reform measures that had been carried out by the late Egyptian President an-Nasir in the country. As-Sadat has transformed Egypt into a place of pleasure, a gambling house and a nightspot for a handful of immensely wealthy individuals from Arab countries that have dependent regimes, such as Saudi Arabia, and into a center for narcotic drugs, night clubs, places of corruption and wheeling and dealing by Western companies and monopolies and international smugglers.

Like the annihilated shah, As-Sadat views the preservation of his regime in having allegiance to the United States and its (?newborn), Israel. He has transformed the land of Egypt into the Pentagon's military base by betraying not only the Egyptian nation but all the Arab peoples. By exploiting As-Sadat's treachery and the concessions that he has given the Pentagon for a large-scale U.S. military presence in Egypt, the United States has currently deployed some of its military units in Egyptian military bases. In the future, too, it intends to use Egyptian territory and bases for the stationing of its Rapid Deployment Forces. The aim of the United States in this connection is, above all, to crush all anti-imperialist, antimonopolist and anti-American movements of the region and to hatch extensive plots against the system of our Islamic Republic.

As-Sadat has taken under his wing all counterrevolutionary elements, remnants of the former shah's regime, the dregs of the hated imperial regime, Savakists and criminals whose hands are soaked to the elbow with the blood of our heroic people. The mercenary Savakists and elements of the former regime are trained by American and Israeli experts in Egyptian bases and camps, and are dispatched to Iran to engage in sabotage, terror, assassination, provocation and rumormongering. The traitor As-Sadat, like his accomplice, the accursed Mohammad Reza, is the foe of any freedom-seeking, independence-seeking and anti-imperialist group, organization, party and association, whether religious or non-religious.

The traitor As-Sadat, like all pseudo-Muslims are supporters of the Islam of Yazid [caliph by whose order Imam Hoseyn was killed], Carter and Reagan, is the foe of true Islam and of committed and struggling Muslims.

One of the interesting points that constitutes a common link between As-Sadat and the accursed Mohammad Reza is the resort to slander and to tricks and ruses fabricated by the West's mass media, the CIA, Mossad and the British intelligence service to show in a distorted manner the true feature of the opponents of the puppet regime ruling over Egypt. It is in order to carry out these tricks and ruses that As-Sadat too, like the annihilated Mohammad Reza, is futilely striving to portray all the national, patriotic, anti-imperialist and antidespotic struggles of the Egyptian nation as allegedly communist or Soviet provocations. Today even a schoolchild knows that whenever in any corner of the world a nation rises against tyranny and imperialism, immediately world-devouring America and the imperialist mass media make use of the anti-Soviet and anticommunist weapon; a weapon that has become worn-out and which, in general, no longer has any impact on the views and deeds of the world's revolutionary forces. However, the United States and its hirelings and lackeys, such as As-Sadat, hope that by utilizing this weapon they will be able to mislead, even if for a short while, the opinions of uninformed, misled and ignorant individuals.

The worn-out weapon fabricated by the CIA and the Mossad, the anti-Soviet and anticommunist weapon, that today As-Sadat wants to exploit against the risen Egyptian nation, was at one time the famous weapon of the annihilated shah as well. In fact, in our era the anti-communist and anti-Soviet weapon is a means in the hands of individuals who either, like As-Sadat, see their shaky position in danger, or who, while (?engaged) in the struggle against imperialism and the great Satan, are misled due to mental prejudices and superficiality. Fortunately, these days, our liberated homeland's mass media have removed the mask from As-Sadat's face, uncovering his tricks and ruses by publishing and disseminating logical and realistic reports and commentaries, and have shown that As-Sadat's accusation against the Government of the Soviet Union and his resort to the rusty anti-Soviet and anticommunist weapon is nothing but a means for justifying the treacheries, law-breaking, arrests and repressions that As-Sadat's regime is pursuing against the just and anti-imperialist struggles of the Egyptian nation.

Everywhere and in any place that a nation rises against domination, imperialism acts. It utilizes all tricks and ruses, including the anti-Soviet and anticommunist weapon, to crush popular and anti-imperialist movements, against all committed and struggling organizations, parties and associations, whether religious or nonreligious.

The Egyptian event can be an instructive lesson from every viewpoint, particularly to those who due to mental prejudices or fanaticism, wittingly or unwittingly, exploit the anti-Soviet and anticommunist weapon against the true revolutionary forces of our liberated homeland.

NVOI URGES NONINTERFERENCE IN AFGHAN AFFAIRS

TA230627 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Starting Talks With the Afghan Government Is in the Interest of the Iranian Revolution"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The fugitive Afghan counterrevolutionaries held a gathering in Quetta, Pakistan, under the name of the so-called conference of Afghan mojahedin.

The Afghan counterrevolutionaries, the representatives of the various groups and gangs of professional killers, the mercenaries of U.S. imperialism and Maoist China, and the lackeys and hirelings of Ziaul Haq's regime took part in this gathering. Needless to say, this so-called gathering of Afghan mojahedin was held under the supervision of CIA experts, the intelligence organization of the Beijing regime and the security officials of Ziaul Haq's regime.

The outcome of this gathering was that the participants formed a so-called working committee under the title of Afghanistan's Islamic consultative assembly, in accordance with the CIA's prescription and directive. When we compare this report with the report that our country's officials brought the representatives of the murderers and fugitive Afghan counterrevolutionaries as well, along with some of the representatives of liberation movements to the war-stricken regions, in order to become acquainted with the situation in these regions, then the question rightly posed by our homeland's people is: For how long will some of our country's officials ignore the demand of the people in respect to noninterference in Afghanistan's affairs, and for how long will they continue their support of the counterrevolutionary elements and the Afghan murderers?

The people of our liberated homeland rightly believe that it is high time that a line of distinction was drawn between our revolutionary country and the regime of Ziaul Haq, who day by day is transforming Pakistan further into the base of U.S. imperialism--this foe of the freedom and independence of nations. When the leaders of the antipeople regime of Pakistan make use of the territory of their country for the continuation of the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, this is something comprehensible. However, when officials of our country's revolutionary and Islamic system, under the impact of intimations and mental prejudices, implement a similar policy to that of the Pakistani regime, but in other forms, then our homeland's people cannot accept this.

As we are aware, recently the democratic Government of Afghanistan approached the governments of Iran and Pakistan once more, and proposed the start of bilateral or tripartite talks for resolving outstanding points of difference. The leaders of Pakistan's military and antinational regime, whose reins are in the hands of the United States and who are the implementors of the directives of the United States, are evasive in regards to this proposal, and are actually continuing the undeclared war against Afghanistan and brazen interference in the internal affairs of this liberated country. One cannot expect other than this from Ziaul Haq's puppet and antinational regime. However, why is Iran's revolutionary and Islamic regime keeping silent in connection with the Afghan Government's peaceful proposal? Is it right and is it worthy of the Iranian nation's popular and anti-imperialist revolution that its anti-imperialist government be in harmony with Ziaul Haq's anti-Islamic, antipeople and puppet regime in regards to the particular problem of Afghanistan? Definitely not.

The liberated Iranian nation recognizes the people and the revolutionary and democratic Government of Afghanistan as its friend and natural ally. It wants officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to adopt a realistic attitude toward the state of Afghanistan, and to separate themselves from the Ziaul Haqs, the Qabuses, the As-Sadats and their overseas masters. Afghanistan is our next-door neighbor. It is a liberated and anti-imperialist country. Therefore, naturally, it is our liberated country's natural ally.

It is incumbent upon officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to adopt a policy of friendship, mutual understanding, neighborliness and noninterference toward the liberated country of Afghanistan, and to lay the foundation and basis for a holy anti-imperialist and anti-American alliance in the region by starting talks with the democratic Government of Afghanistan. Acceptance of the constructive and sincere proposal of the Afghan Government in connection with the start of talks for the settlement of outstanding points of difference is in the interest of the Iranian revolution.